

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 through 6: Cancelled.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 6,~~ In a telephone communications system comprising a plurality of mobile telephone stations, a plurality of base stations interfaced for wireless communications with the plurality of mobile stations, and a mobile switching center connected in a mobile telephone network to the base stations for controlling wireless telephone communications, a method for processing an incoming call from a caller for a mobile telephone station subscriber in response to receipt of the incoming call at a home or gateway mobile switching center for the subscriber, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether the called mobile station subscriber subscribes to an alternative ringback feature,

establishing a call path to the caller between the subscriber mobile switching center and an audio content server if the mobile station subscriber subscribes to the alternative ringback feature;

transmitting a preselected audio presentation from the audio content server to the caller in lieu of audible ringback signals, wherein the step of transmitting comprises accessing one of a plurality of stored audio presentations on the basis of subscriber identified criteria;

identifying the call location of the called subscriber station;

extending a call leg from the subscriber mobile switching center to the subscriber station or a subscriber call forwarding station; and

in response to an answer of the call by the subscriber station or a subscriber call forwarding station, disconnecting the audio content server from the caller and connecting the caller to the call leg;

wherein the subscriber identified criteria is related to the identity of the caller.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 6;~~ In a telephone communications system comprising a plurality of mobile telephone stations, a plurality of base stations interfaced for wireless communications with the plurality of mobile stations, and a mobile switching center connected in a mobile telephone network to the base stations for controlling wireless telephone communications, a method for processing an incoming call from a caller for a mobile telephone station subscriber in response to receipt of the incoming call at a home or gateway mobile switching center for the subscriber, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether the called mobile station subscriber subscribes to an alternative ringback feature,

establishing a call path to the caller between the subscriber mobile switching center and an audio content server if the mobile station subscriber subscribes to the alternative ringback feature;

transmitting a preselected audio presentation from the audio content server to the caller in lieu of audible ringback signals, wherein the step of transmitting comprises accessing one of a plurality of stored audio presentations on the basis of subscriber identified criteria;

identifying the call location of the called subscriber station;

extending a call leg from the subscriber mobile switching center to the subscriber station or a subscriber call forwarding station; and

in response to an answer of the call by the subscriber station or a subscriber call forwarding station, disconnecting the audio content server from the caller and connecting the caller to the call leg;

wherein the subscriber identified criteria is related to the geographical location of the caller.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 6;~~ In a telephone communications system comprising a plurality of mobile telephone stations, a plurality of base stations interfaced for wireless communications with the plurality of mobile stations, and a mobile switching center connected in a mobile telephone network to the base stations for controlling wireless telephone communications, a method for processing an incoming call from a caller for a mobile telephone station subscriber in response to receipt of the incoming call at a home or gateway mobile switching center for the subscriber, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether the called mobile station subscriber subscribes to an alternative ringback feature;

establishing a call path to the caller between the subscriber mobile switching center and an audio content server if the mobile station subscriber subscribes to the alternative ringback feature;

transmitting a preselected audio presentation from the audio content server to the caller in lieu of audible ringback signals, wherein the step of transmitting comprises accessing one of a plurality of stored audio presentations on the basis of subscriber identified criteria;

identifying the call location of the called subscriber station;

extending a call leg from the subscriber mobile switching center to the subscriber station or a subscriber call forwarding station; and

in response to an answer of the call by the subscriber station or a subscriber call forwarding station, disconnecting the audio content server from the caller and connecting the caller to the call leg;

wherein the subscriber identified criteria is related to the time of day of the incoming call to the subscriber mobile switching center.

Claims 10 through 14: Cancelled.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A telecommunications system as recited in claim 14,~~ A mobile telephone communications system comprising:

a plurality of base stations interfaced for wireless communications with a plurality of mobile stations;

a mobile switching center connected in a mobile telephone network to the base stations for controlling wireless telephone communications;

a home location register coupled to the mobile telephone network and having stored therein identification of mobile stations subscribed to the alternative ringback feature and subscriber identified criteria associating a plurality of stored presentations with a subscriber to the alternative ringback feature; and

an audio content server coupled to the mobile telephone network; wherein

in response to receipt of an incoming call at the mobile switching center, determination is made whether the called mobile station subscriber subscribes to an alternative ringback feature

by a query to the home location register, a call path is established to the caller between the subscriber mobile switching center and an audio content server if the mobile station subscriber subscribes to the alternative ringback feature;

a preselected audio presentation is transmitted from the audio content server to the caller in lieu of audible ringback signals;

the call location of the called subscriber station is identified;

a call leg is extended from the subscriber mobile switching center to the subscriber station or a subscriber call forwarding station; and

in response to an answer of the call by the subscriber station or a subscriber call forwarding station, the audio content server is disconnected from the caller and the caller is connected to the call leg; and

wherein the subscriber identified criteria is related to the identity of the caller.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A telecommunications system as recited in claim 14,~~ A mobile telephone communications system comprising:

a plurality of base stations interfaced for wireless communications with a plurality of mobile stations;

a mobile switching center connected in a mobile telephone network to the base stations for controlling wireless telephone communications;

a home location register coupled to the mobile telephone network and having stored therein identification of mobile stations subscribed to the alternative ringback feature and subscriber identified criteria associating a plurality of stored presentations with a subscriber to the alternative ringback feature; and

an audio content server coupled to the mobile telephone network; wherein
in response to receipt of an incoming call at the mobile switching center, determination is
made whether the called mobile station subscriber subscribes to an alternative ringback feature
by a query to the home location register, a call path is established to the caller between the
subscriber mobile switching center and an audio content server if the mobile station subscriber
subscribes to the alternative ringback feature;

a preselected audio presentation is transmitted from the audio content server to the caller
in lieu of audible ringback signals;

the call location of the called subscriber station is identified;
a call leg is extended from the subscriber mobile switching center to the subscriber
station or a subscriber call forwarding station; and

in response to an answer of the call by the subscriber station or a subscriber call
forwarding station, the audio content server is disconnected from the caller and the caller is
connected to the call leg; and

wherein the subscriber identified criteria is related to the geographical location of the caller.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A telecommunications system as recited in claim 14,~~ A mobile telephone communications system comprising:

a plurality of base stations interfaced for wireless communications with a plurality of
mobile stations;

a mobile switching center connected in a mobile telephone network to the base stations
for controlling wireless telephone communications;

a home location register coupled to the mobile telephone network and having stored therein identification of mobile stations subscribed to the alternative ringback feature and subscriber identified criteria associating a plurality of stored presentations with a subscriber to the alternative ringback feature; and

an audio content server coupled to the mobile telephone network; wherein in response to receipt of an incoming call at the mobile switching center, determination is made whether the called mobile station subscriber subscribes to an alternative ringback feature by a query to the home location register, a call path is established to the caller between the subscriber mobile switching center and an audio content server if the mobile station subscriber subscribes to the alternative ringback feature;

a preselected audio presentation is transmitted from the audio content server to the caller in lieu of audible ringback signals;

the call location of the called subscriber station is identified;

a call leg is extended from the subscriber mobile switching center to the subscriber station or a subscriber call forwarding station; and

in response to an answer of the call by the subscriber station or a subscriber call forwarding station, the audio content server is disconnected from the caller and the caller is connected to the call leg; and wherein the subscriber identified criteria is related to the time of day of the incoming call to the subscriber mobile switching center.

Claims 18 and 19: Cancelled.